REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 are amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Formal Matters

Interview Summary Under 37 C.F.R. §1.133

A telephonic interview occurred between the Applicants' attorney, Jodi Hartman, and Examiner Filipczyk on May 16, 2005. The interview covered the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,921 to Richards et al. (hereinafter "Richards") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,754 to Knauft et al. (hereinafter "Knauft") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,389 to Fitch et al. (hereinafter "Fitch"). The Examiner and the Applicants' attorney discussed the cited references and proposed claim language that would possibly overcome the cited references.

II. Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards in view of Knauft and further in view of Fitch. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

As amended, claim 1 recites that a method for providing computer software help utility comprises after receiving the search string at the text entry area, storing the search string in a list of most recently used search strings; determining if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then retrieving the list of most recently used search strings; and displaying the list of most recently used search strings. Similarly, as amended, claim 7 recites a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of after receiving the

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search string at the text entry area, storing the search string in a list of most recently used search strings; determining if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then retrieving the list of most recently used search strings; and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. On the contrary, Richards discloses a method of providing information to a user by receiving user-defined queries, storing a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels) in a memory, selecting one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria, and presenting the selected information segment to the user. Once a user enters a query, Richards teaches that the character string representing the user-defined query is read into and stored in a buffer. As discussed in Column 5, line 13 to Column 6, line 42 and in Column 9, line 38 to Column 11, line 52, the character string representing the user-defined query in the buffer is parsed and subjected to a number of iterative processes to eliminate extraneous and superfluous words from the character string, as well as to identify words or phrases relevant to selecting the most appropriate response for the user's query. Once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the buffer during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are discarded. This is not analogous to the method of claim 1 or the computer readable medium of claim 7 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the user-defined queries are stored in a list of most recently used user-defined queries in the buffer, and if a received user-defined query is related to one of the queries stored in the buffer, then the list of most recently used user-defined queries is retrieved and displayed. Instead, Richards teaches that once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the user-defined query in the buffer during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are *discarded.*

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The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knauft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knauft does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. Instead, Knauft teaches a method of generating index information for electronic documents including storing a history log for each user that includes the search terms entered by a user to identify data objects. This is not analogous to the method of claim 1 or the computer readable medium of claim 7 because Knauft fails to teach or suggest determining if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if the received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, then retrieving and displaying the search terms stored in the history log. Instead, Knauft teaches storing the search terms entered by a user in a history log, without suggesting determining if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if so, then retrieving and displaying the search terms stored in the history log. In fact, other than teaching that the history logs of each of the users are consolidated into a master history log, Knauft fails to teach or suggest how the history logs are used. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft fails to teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft. However, like Richards and Knauft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility or a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions as recited by claims 1 and 7, respectively. In contrast, Fitch teaches an automated method for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting after receiving the search string at the text entry area, storing the search string in a list of most recently used search strings; determining if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of

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most recently used search strings, then retrieving and displaying the list of most recently used search strings..

For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features and claims 8-10 depend from claim 7 and recite additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claims 2-4 and 8-10 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

As amended, claim 5 recites that a method for providing computer software help utility comprises after receiving the search string and the refined search string at the text entry area, storing the search string and the refined search string in a list of most recently used search strings; determining if the received search string or the refined search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string or the refined search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then retrieving the list of most recently used search strings; and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. On the contrary, as discussed above, Richards discloses a method of providing information to a user by receiving user-defined queries, storing a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels) in a memory, selecting one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria, and presenting the selected information segment to the user. Once a user enters a query, Richards teaches that the character string representing the user-defined query is read into and stored in a buffer. As discussed in Column 5, line 13 to Column 6, line 42 and in Column 9, line 38 to Column 11, line 52, the character string representing the user-defined query in the buffer is parsed and subjected to a number of iterative processes to eliminate extraneous and superfluous words from the character string, as well as to identify words or phrases relevant to selecting the most appropriate response for the user's query. Once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the buffer

during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are discarded. This is not analogous to the method of claim 5 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the user-defined queries are stored in a list of most recently used user-defined queries in the buffer, and if a received user-defined query is related to one of the queries stored in the buffer, then the list of most recently used user-defined queries is retrieved and displayed. Instead, Richards teaches that once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the user-defined query in the buffer during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are *discarded.*

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knauft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knauft does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. Instead, Knauft teaches a method of generating index information for electronic documents including storing search terms entered by a user to identify data objects in a history log. This is not analogous to the method of claim 5 because Knauft fails to teach or suggest determining if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if the received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, then retrieving and displaying the search terms stored in the history log. Instead, Knauft teaches storing the search terms entered by a user in a history log, without suggesting determining if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if so, then retrieving and displaying the search terms stored in the history log. In fact, other than teaching that the history logs of each of the users are consolidated into a master history log, Knauft fails to teach or suggest how the history logs are used. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft fails to teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft. However, like Richards and Knauft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a method for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 5. In contrast, Fitch teaches an automated method for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting after receiving the search string at the text entry area, storing the search string in a list of

most recently used search strings; determining if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then retrieving and displaying the list of most recently used search strings.

For at least these reasons, claim 5 is allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claim 6 depends from claim 5 and recites additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claim 6 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 recites that a system for providing computer software help utility comprises a software module operative to store the search string and the refined search string in a list of most recently used search strings after receiving the search string and the refined search string at the text entry area; to determine if the search string or the refined search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the search string or the refined search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then to retrieve the list of most recently used search strings; and to display the list of most recently used search strings.

Richards does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11. On the contrary, Richards discloses a system for providing information to a user operative to receive user-defined queries, store a plurality of predefined information segments (help panels) in a memory, select one of the predefined information segments which corresponds to the user query according to a predetermined criteria, and present the selected information segment to the user. Once a user enters a query, Richards teaches that the character string representing the user-defined query is read into and stored in a buffer. As discussed in Column 5, line 13 to Column 6, line 42 and in Column 9, line 38 to Column 11, line 52, the character string representing the user-defined query in the buffer is parsed and subjected to a number of iterative processes to eliminate extraneous and superfluous words from the character string, as well as to identify words or phrases relevant to selecting the most appropriate response for the

user's query. Once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the buffer during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are discarded. This is not analogous to the system of claim 1 because Richards fails to teach or suggest that the user-defined queries are stored in a list of most recently used user-defined queries in the buffer, and if a received user-defined query is related to one of the queries stored in the buffer, then the list of most recently used user-defined queries is retrieved and displayed. Instead, Richards teaches that once all of the single and multiple word character strings, location information, noise words, and punctuation have been removed from the user-defined query in the buffer during the iterative processes, the remaining contents of the buffer are *discarded.*

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Knauft to allegedly overcome the above-identified deficiencies of the teaching of Richards. However, like Richards, Knauft does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11. Instead, Knauft teaches a system for generating index information for electronic documents operative to store search terms entered by a user to identify data objects in a history log. This is not analogous to the system of claim 11 because Knauft fails to teach or suggest that the system is operative to determine if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if the received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, then to retrieve and display the search terms stored in the history log. Instead, Knauft teaches that the system is operative to store the search terms entered by a user in a history log, without suggesting that the system is operative to determine if a received search term is related to a search term stored in the history log, and if so, then to retrieve and display the search terms stored in the history log. In fact, other than teaching that the history logs of each of the users are consolidated into a master history log, Knauft fails to teach or suggest how the history logs are used. Therefore, the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft fails to teach or suggest a system for providing computer software help utility as recited by claim 11.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitch to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the combined teaching of Richards and Knauft. However, like Richards and Knauft, Fitch does not teach or suggest a system for providing computer software

help utility as recited by claim 11. In contrast, Fitch teaches a system for periodically evaluating media streams on a network of computers, without suggesting that the system is operative to store the search string in a list of most recently used search strings after receiving the search string at the text entry area; determine if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings; and if the received search string is related to a search string stored in the list of most recently used search strings, then retrieve and display the list of most recently used search strings.
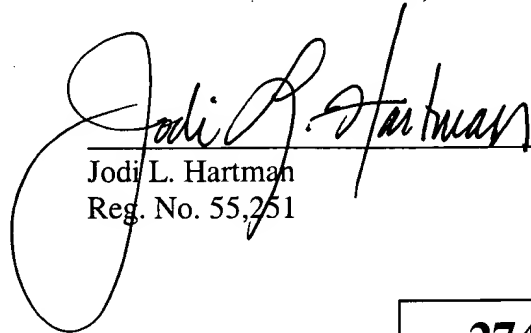
For at least these reasons, claim 11 is allowable over the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch. Since claim 12 depends from claim 11 and recites additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Richards, Knauft, and Fitch does not make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claim 12 for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the final Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1-12 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicants' attorney at 404.954.5042.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC

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Jodi L. Hartman
Reg. No. 55,251

Merchant & Gould
Merchant & Gould, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

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